THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Subject to acceptance trials, the frigate would be commissioned in May, 2003.

(b) Do not arise.

Lifting of US sanctions against Pakistan and its impact on Indian Defence

3407. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lifting of US sanctions against Pakistan both economic and military will have any impact on the Indian defence preparedness;

(b) whether India is planning to enchance its ICBM capabilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Purchase of early advance warning helicopters from Russia

3408. SHRI R. K. ANAND : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the department of Defence has recently purchased two early advance warning helicopters from Russia;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on acquiring these two helicopters;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Russia had not finished testing all systems and equipments on these helicopters that India has purchased;

(d) if so, what was the hurry to acquire the helicopters if the war cloud h ve vanished ; and

(e) if not, whether the Russian report on the helicopters has been satisfactory?